FACTORS INFLUENCING GANG VIOLENCE BY UNEMPLOYED YOUTH: A CASE OF MATAYOS SUB-COUNTY, BUSIA COUNTY-KENYA.

BY

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MAY 2019

DECLARATION

This Dissertation is a product of my own work and is not the result of anything done in collaboration. It has not been previously presented to any other institution. I agree that the dissertation may be available for reference and photocopying at the discretion of the University.

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DEDICATION

First and foremost, I humbly dedicate this work to the Almighty God for enabling me to reach where I am; without God I could not have made it. Secondly, I extend my love to my late grandmother, a woman who greatly valued my presence in this world. Rest in peace grandma.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

SUPERVISORS:……...ii.

Declaration……...iii

Dedication……...iv

Acknowledgement……...v

Table of content……...vi

List of tables……ix

List of figures……...x

List of Abbreviation……xi

INTRODUCTION……...1

1.0 INTRODUCTION……1

1.1 Background of the study……2

1.3. Research objectives……...6

1.3.1 Specific objectives……...6

1.4 Research Questions……7

1.5 Scope of study……7

1.6 Limitation of the Study……8

1.7 Delimitation……...9

1.8 Significance of the study……...9

CHAPTER TWO……..11

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW……...11

2.1 Theoretical Framework……11

2.2 Empirical review of literature……14

2.2.1 Overview of youth violence in the context of unemployment……..14

2.2.2 Manifestation of different forms of youth gang violence……19

2.2.3 Factors responsible for gang violence by the youth……19

2.2.4 Coping mechanism adopted by the youth……21

2.3 Conceptual Framework……23

2.4 Summary……...25
CHAPTER THREE…….26
3.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:…….26
3.1 Research location……...26
3.2 Research Design…….27
3.3 Target population…….27
3.4 Sample size and Sampling procedures…….28
3.6 Piloting…….31
3.7 Validity…….31
3.8 Reliability…….32
3.9 Data Analysis and Interpretation…….32
3.10 Ethical Issues…….33
CHAPTER FOUR……34
4.0 DATA FINDINGS, PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION……..34
4.1 Introduction……...34
4.3 Demographic Characteristics of the Participants……..36
4.3.1 Gender…….36
4.4.1 Political Representation…….44
4.5 Socio-Economic Conditions of the Residents in the Area of study……..45
4.5.1 Agriculture……..45
4.5.2 Education……...46
4.5.2.1 Rate of transition……47
4.6 Factors associated with the increased gang violence…….49
4.6.1 Transport and communication network…….50
4.7 Coping mechanism by the youth……...51
4.8 Community's intervention……..51
4.9 Concluding remarks……...52
CHAPTER FIVE……..53

5.0 Summary of Findings, Conclusion and Recommendations……...53

5.1 Introduction……...53

5.2 Summary of Findings……55

5.3 Conclusion……57

5.4 Recommendations……..58

5.4.1 Individual level……58

5.4.2 Relationship level……58

5.5 Suggestion for Further Research……61

References ……62

APPENDICES……67

APPENDIX I: INTRODUCTION LETTER TO RESPONDENTS……..67

APPENDIX II: SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE……68

APPENDIX V: MAP FOR MATAYOS SUB-COUNTY……74

Source: IEBC revised Matayos Constituency/sub-County Assembly Wards……74

LIST OF TABLES

Table 3:1 Sample procedure…….31

Table 4.1 Data presentation……..35

Table 4.2 Interview respondents……...36

Table 4.3 Respondent distribution by gender……38

Table 4.4 Distribution of job seekers and method used..……...39

Table 4.5 Distribution of unemployment and type of job sought……..…....40

Table 4.6 Unemployment causes dishonor in society……..…….41

Table 4.7 Response to forms of violent activities ……....……42

Table 4.8 Number of representation in senior position..……45

Table 4.9 Socio-economic characteristics of the adult respondents……..47

Table 4.10 Education attainment by youth respondents……48

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2:1 John Burton's Basic Needs Theory……..14

Figure 2:2 Conceptual-frameworks……....25

Figure 4.1 Those who participated in questionnaire……..36

Figure 4.2 Interview participants in percentages……37

Figure 4.3 Gender distributions of respondents in percentages…….38

Figure 4.4 Socio-economic characteristics of the adult respondents…….50

Map of Matayos Sub-County……..……27

LIST OF ABBREVIATION

AIDS…….Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

ANSG……Armed Non-State Groups.

ARI…….Acute Respiratory Infection.

BCIDP…….Busia County Integrated Development Plan.

CEC……..County Executive Committee Member

DFID……...Department for International Development.

EU…….European Union.

FGD…….Focus Group Discussion.

GDP per capita……..Gross Domestic Product divided by total population of a country.

GDP……..Gross Domestic Product.

HDI……...Human Development Index.

HIV……Human Immune Deficiency Syndrome

IMF……International Monetary Fund.

KDHS……Kenya Demographic Household Survey.

MCA……..Member of County Assembly

M.P……Member of Parliament.

MENA……...Middle East and North African countries.

OCS……Officer in-Charge of Station

OTR……...Oral Rehydration Therapy.

PPP…….Purchasing Power Parity.

PRS……Poverty Reduction Strategies.

SPSS……..Statistics Package for Social Science.

SSA……Sub-Saharan Africa.

UN……..United Nations.

UNDP…….…….United Nations Development Programme.

UNPDD……..United Nations Population Division Database.

USAID……..United States Agency for International Development

WB…….World Bank.

WHO……. World Health Organization.

YEDF……Youth Enterprise Development Fund

YDI……Youth Development Index.

ABSTRACT

Violence among young people is increasingly being felt in societies both local and globally. In the various media reports there is an indication of immense criminal activities and mushrooming violent gangs. More importantly, understanding the cause of this violence and the reason why the young people are engaging in youth gang violence is of essence. The objective of the study was: to explore different manifestations of youth gang violent behaviour experienced in Matayos; investigate whether unemployment contributes to increased youth gang violence in Matayos; explore the coping mechanism adopted by youth in dealing with factors likely to lead to gang violence in Matayos; explore the levels of intervention by the community on youth gang violence in Matayos. It was carried out at Matayos sub-County, Busia County, Kenya and was informed by John Burton's Basic Human Needs Theory (BHNT). This theory explains the deep rooted conflicts in societies. The study adopted a descriptive research design and utilised both quantitative and qualitative approach throughout the study. The sample procedure was stratified sampling and purposive sampling. The target population comprised youth and key informers who were selected from the target population of 42,002 from where sample sizes of 122 respondents were formed. The criteria for sample selection were based on the household income level. Data was obtained from both primary and secondary sources. The instruments for collecting primary data include survey questionnaire, interview guide and focus group discussions. The quantitative data was generated using the descriptive and inferential statistics through the assistance of a computer Statistical Package of Social Science version 22 (SPSS). The results showed that massive unemployment exhibits strong relationship with violent crimes. Long term unemployment creates a population that experiences marginalization and utilises violence as a way of communication of grievances. The study established that there was a huge gap between those who have and those in need. The findings of the study contribute to development prioritisation in the region for the benefit of the citizens, stakeholders, policy makers and other beneficiaries. It also helps to explore interventions and policies aimed at reducing youth gang violence for instance by starting career interns, giving loans to the youth, establishing Soccer Clubs, Agricultural Clubs and encouraging entrepreneurship respectively.

CHAPTER ONE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Youth gangs are a common phenomenon in today's context. El Salvador alone for instance, reports a case of youth member gangs between 30,000-350,000. Similar cases of hard-core gang groups were reported in Papua New Guinea, United States, Honduras, Philippines and many other parts in Europe and Russia. More importantly, there is a growth of such hard-core groups in the continent of Africa who are socially organised according to their criminal networks and ethnicity. The Boko Haram, of Nigeria, one of the fast growing economies in Africa, is one such group that continues to engage in atrocities among communities (Keya, 2016).

Another example is South Africa where for instance, in 1993 had about 90,000 members of organised gangs (Keya, 2016). Somalia too, a country that has been riddled by intractable conflicts is currently experiencing challenges due to atrocities committed by Al Shaabab. This group of nonstate actors has not only destabilised its own country Somalia but also committed atrocities in the neighbouring country Kenya (Hallary, 2012). For instance, the Al Shaabab attacks in the Westgate Mall attack in 2013 (Mwangi, 2018). Also the Al Shabaab attack on students at Garissa, North Eastern on the 2nd April 2015 where 148 lives of mainly students were lost (Wario, 2019). Kenya too has witnessed a rise in youth gangs that are not only operating in cities but in the rural areas as ethnic militia. Wamuyu (2012) in her study on youth violence in secondary schools in Kenya identifies such groups in the location of her study – the then Rift Valley province and Nairobi, the capital city of Kenya. Some of these groups are the Chinkororo, Sungusungu and Amachuma from the Gusi community, Talibans, Baghdad for peace, Nyalenda base, Nyamasaria-masive, Arturmargaryan and Kebago from Nyanza, Musumbiji from Western, Mombasa Republican council (MRC) from the Coast,

Sabaoti land Defence Force Sabaoti community in Mount Elgon, others include; Jeshi la mzee, Kamjeshi, Karamojong boys, Sabasaba, Kosovo, Darajani bunkers, 12 Flamingo and many others.

In the case location of this dissertation, Matayos, one of the seven sub-Counties of Busia County, Kenya in the former Western province – there has been cases of increase in youth gang violence such as mugging, violent robbery and demolition of properties in the area and use of light weapons. The study findings indicate that most of the criminal activities are carried out by unemployed or unemployable youth under the age of 15-25 years. Furthermore, attribute this form of violence to the need for youth's self-identity and belonging, drugs and substance abuse, idleness, poor economic status (Farfock, 2014). However, according to Wamũyũ (2012) youth violence can be due to marginalisation, lack of engaging the narratives of on their issues and systematic violence leading the youth to use violence as a means of communication. More importantly, views of other scholars on youth violence attribute it to unemployment.

Hence, as noted in this study, if and when unemployment especially among the youth population is effectively addressed this can attract domestic and foreign investments. The rationale is that a large youth population is not only a security risk for their respective governments and the citizens and the entire world but also agents for sustainable development and human security.

1.1 Background of the study

Unemployment is a form of marginalisation in a society and tends to create barriers between the societal members. This in the end can be interpreted by the marginalised group as deprivation of their rights and freedom. People revolt when deprived of their human needs

such as justice, security, opportunities and identity that leaves them vulnerable and un-empowered. Unfortunately, in the modern capitalist society those with high status tend to create barriers against those with low status depriving them of full societal participation, hence creating tension between the two groups (World Bank, 2015).

Additionally, high unemployment in any society brings frustration to the consumer especially the youth due to a loss of disposable income. Common conception indicates that irregularities in income due to a number of factors including recession of contracting economy lead to loss of jobs and also unemployment in wider scale that ends with higher crime rates. Additionally, unemployment rates are an indicator of unhealthy economy that affects the standard of living that fall greatly (Wade, et al, 2015). Equally, unemployment can be also directly linked to poverty which is a conglomeration of many issues such as illiteracy, hunger, social discrimination, unsafe drinking water and under-nutrition, lack of access to basic health services, political exclusion and physical insecurity. Poverty increases social discontent in economic hardship and social experiences of powerlessness. Thus the poor are likely to turn to non-state actors such as the Non-governmental organisations and civil societies who are readily available for reduction of their life risks. Some of the actors could be affiliated and/or support militias (Tony et al, 2009).

This leads to the rise of alternative survival including the rise of gang groups and gang violence which is becoming rampant and can be linked to a number of factors of social life (Zaheer and Khan, 2016). For the economy to grow, it does not only need to be assessed in terms of Gross Development Product but more so on the basis of economic employment; making the individuals to use their ability in terms of mental capacities, physical and natural efforts for the generation of life-sustaining income levels. This reduces over-dependence on government assistance and donors therefore; economic empowerment can be used as an

approach for development with an aim of improving human lives (Onyeiwu, 2015). This applies to the case of the youth population which is the focus of this study.

Youth unemployment, which is one of the interests of this study, is a global problem. The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimated the global youth unemployment rate at 12.6 per cent, with over 73 million young people being unemployed (Khaemba, 2015). More importantly, the unemployment rates are soaring globally due to the increasing population of youth that have made strides in academic achievements from learning institutions. .For instance, in the United States of America alone the rates of joblessness for youth ages between 16-24 years old has been 14.5 percent. This shows that millions of youth are unemployed and some are dropped out of the job market. Youth unemployment in Kenya is estimated to be over 17.3 per cent. This indicates that statistical variations depends on the classification of the youth who constitutes 67 per cent of the population as captured in the Kenyan government second medium Term plan of 2013-2017 of job creation (World Bank, 2016). Yet, countries with youthful population should have a big economic growth compared to the one with ageing population, since the consumption rate will be higher, spurring huge manufacturing sector (United Nations, 2015).

According to Barash and Webel, (2014) the socio-economic and political structure in a society has a duty to respond quickly to the needs of its people. If this is ignored, a society or a section of the group in the society can feel dejected, marginalised and vulnerable. In a society where a huge number of youth (ages between 15-28 years) are disenfranchised and unemployed, whose narratives do not matter, this could be a recipe for instability and insecurity. Hence, the increasing youth population in developing countries could pose a risk if their social economic and political plight continues to be marginalised by their governments despite their huge investment and achievements in education (Onyeiwu, 2015).

However, a study by Lunberg and Wuermli (2012) indicates that there is no direct evidence on the linkage of socio-economic status and gang violent behaviour among the youth. According to them when the income increases there is increase in illegal drugs and substance and when the income reduces the use of drug and substance reduces. Some studies have indicated that young people become more despondent and idle if their skills and knowledge are not engaged in productive activities and in the end such youth may resort to use of illegal drugs and substance and some engage in sexual violence (Hall and Midgley, 2012). Equally, youth who experience and/or perceive exclusion and whose narratives are ignored can result to use of violence as communication as noted earlier in this chapter. Thus, failure to involve this youthful population in gainful employment, various development activities and decision making in specific countries and the entire globe can compromise sustainable development.

Considering the high percentage of youth especially in the context of Africa where unemployment is high, this study is of essence as it aims at finding out the link between unemployment and youth gang violence. Indeed the current approaches to addressing this violence and what needs to be done to address this phenomenon in Matayos, sub-County, Busia County, Kenya was of importance to this study.

1.2. Problem Statement

Youth gang violence is widespread across the globe. The scholarly works on youth and violence across the discipline indicate that violence committed by young people is contextual and complex. In recent years to date, there is an increase in youth gangs/militia in cities and ethnic militia who operate mainly in the rural areas specifically, Kenya. Recent studies on youth violence in Kenya show an upward trend (Mwangi, 2018). Interestingly, most criminal

activities are carried out not only in urban centres but rural centres as well. Those youth engaging in this violence age in years is from under 15 to 25.

In the case of Matayos, youth gang violence such as muggings, robbery with violence, destruction of property, raping and abuse of drugs are on the increase especially among the unemployed youth. The increase in this violence is despite the interventions by governments, Community Based Organisations (CBOs), Faith Based Organisation (FBOs) and other interested stakeholders. The question that this study therefore sought to address was why the violence in the study location, Matayos, sub-County is on the increase and more so among the unemployed youth despite the above interventions?

1.3. Research objectives

The general objective of this research was to explore factors influencing gang violence by unemployed youth in Matayos sub-County-Busia County Kenya.

1.3.1 Specific objectives

i. To explore different manifestations of youth gang violent behaviour experienced in Matayos.
ii. To investigate whether unemployment contributes to increased youth gang violence in Matayos.
iii. To explore the coping mechanism adopted by youth in dealing with factors likely to lead to gang violence in Matayos
iv. To explore the levels of intervention by the community on youth gang violence in Matayos.

1.4 Research Questions

i. What are the different manifestations of youth gang violence experienced in Matayos?

ii. To what extent does unemployment contribute to increased youth gang violence in Matayos?

iii. What are the coping mechanisms adopted by youth in addressing youth gang violence in Matayos?

iv. What strategies does the community employ to address youth gang violence in Matayos?

1.5 Scope of study

The scope of the study was to investigate the linkage between unemployment and youth gang violence. Youth in Matayos tend to participate in physical acts of violence such as stealing, fights among different groups, mugging, looting, raping, rebellion, protest, killing, issuing threats, harassment,general destruction of properties, carrying weapons and robbery. Unemployment and underemployment contribute to frustration, anger and hence, increase tension resulting to crime and violence (Barash and Webel, 2014).

The study was restricted to the objective of examining the extent to which unemployment could subject a certain group of people in society to vulnerability, hopelessness and frustrated life. The study was done in Matayos sub-County, Busia County Kenya. The researcher focused on two Wards (Burumba and Mayenje). It further focused on the youth aged between k15-25 years and key informants who included opinion makers, security personnel, youth headed household and community leaders.

1.6 Limitation of the Study

Since the study rotated around security matters, a number of respondents were reluctant to participate in interviews with a feeling that they could be a target of interrogation by the police officers in any case of security matters arising. Some of the respondents were also afraid of the opponent groups in political arenas who could be involved in the study. Thus, the researcher identified himself as a student taking a study that was academically based and not related to investigative matters of the security personnel in the area.

Some personnel involving administrative units, security organs and other policy makers were reluctant to give detailed information involving security because security is always held in top secrecy and out of reach by researchers. This was countered by producing a research permit from the government (NACOSTI) a letter from the sub-County Commissioner and a letter from the University that allowed the researcher to undertake the study as a student. In addition, since the area of study was metropolitan, the researcher experienced language barrier when dealing with some of the respondents. In order to address this challenge, the researcher engaged an interpreter for easy communication. It was also challenging to convince people to participate in the study as most of those contacted were busy with their daily business. For this reason, time was planned well and questionnaires were distributed on time. Participants were informed beforehand. This assisted in addressing the problem of inconveniencing the respondents. Prior to the study the researcher conducted a pilot study in order to enhance the research tools and identify any gaps in the survey questionnaire and interview guide.

1.7 Delimitation

The study was narrowed to physical violence exhibited by the youth of Matayos sub-County. A variety of youths would have qualified for this study, however, it was restricted to youth aged between 15-25 years of age because this was the age that was most affected by unemployment. Equally, it was the youth that were often observed idling in the streets of Matayos. The study interest was on finding out the influence of unemployment on youth gang violence.

1.8 Significance of the study

The study sought to identify the existing gaps in the development programs conceptualised and operated by the development partners in the area of Matayos. This was in aim of making recommendations that could help in bridging these gaps to help reduce the level of youth involvement in violence in this area. The study aimed at examining how violent behaviour can negatively affect development in a particular context as in the case of Matayos.

The findings of this study is hoped to enable the development partners including the National government, County government, International organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, Community Based Organizations (CBO's) Civil society and academicians to engage in improving the lives of the inhabitants of Matayos. They could do this by creating enabling environment for productivity geared towards reducing youth gang violence.

The local leadership will also be able to get an insight on how to engage the youth, tap their talents and skills by establishing programs for capacity building. Equally, allocate resources to allow youth participation in constructive development for sustainability. In addition, this will assist in avoiding unnecessary restlessness that will impact negatively on socio-economic

development. This will also form a basis for further research on engagement of youth in addressing youth violence in all its forms.

CHAPTER TWO

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Theoretical Framework

The study utilised John Burton's (1990) theory of basic Human Needs.Theory. The theory explains why violent activities keep occurring in our society. It states that human needs are genetically motivated and primordial in nature therefore they cannot be manipulated or eliminated since they are intrinsic and inherent to biological and physical survival (Jeong, 2013). Burton explains human behaviour through this Human Needs Theory (HNT). He states that in human survival there are certain essentials which are instinctively driven and that must be met for conflicts to be avoided. Thus his key argument is that most of the conflict and violent behaviour are as a result of unmet human needs.

These needs for instance identity, recognition and participation are so essential that they determine the behaviour pattern of human beings. If these needs are denied, people will strive to attain them and sometimes through violent means. Additionally, when individuals or a group of people in a society are denied their socio-psychological needs, they may resort to coercive power with a belief that the authority will listen to their demands. However, when these needs are provided for, destruction and violent behaviour can be avoided (Walsh, 2015). Burton further contends that the law enforcement including punishment cannot prevent those groups – that experience exclusion and marginalisation - seeking for their needs. He therefore calls for a radical restructuring of a society in order to meet the needs of its people.

Marshall, (2013) a peace practitioner supports Burton's argument that in a society through culture and education some parties tend to manipulate other parties rendering them vulnerable individual/group unable to meet immediate needs. The needs are mostly suppressed by those in authority and they include; safety and security, self-esteem, belonging, identity, distributive justice, freedom, personal fulfillment, and cultural security (Danielsen, 2010) (See fig. 2.1).

On the contrary, Jeong (2013) argues that although the Human Needs Theory can be used as a framework to analyse conflicts and their root causes, however, identity group formation in search for security and dignity is from individuals pursuing for their needs. Behaviouralists, on the other hand, suggest that inherent human needs cannot be sustained by law and order through fear and threats without provision of essential material needs.

Rubenstein, (2014) opines that for conflicts to end there has to be a change that checks on the balances that cuts across social, economic and political nature of a society that leads to human needs enhancement. He suggests that societies must adopt institutions that can enhance satisfaction of essential human requirement. Other scholars such as Marker and Kelman (2007) argue that intergroup and inter-communal and intractable conflicts are as a result of issues to which identity and security are associated. These include resolving conflicts through negotiable means which creates interconnectedness, which in turn creates sustainability and trust thus reduces any suspicion from the other side of the divide. Below is a graphic representation of Burton's Human Needs Theory (Fig. 2.1).



Fig 2.1: John Burton's Basic Needs theory (1990)

Source: http://worldissuessociety.blogspot.co.ke/2014/08/basic-human-needs.html: retrieved April. 2nd 2018.

John Burton's Human Needs Theory can explain how conflicts arise in society.However, the number of questions and gaps exist. This is due to the fact that the theory cannot exhaustively explain why violence exists in rich and democratic societies. The theory still lacks sufficient and interchangeable plan to adequately capture the emergent attributes of violence, including those arising among youth from able families (Hebert, 2010).

Another weakness is the limited attention it gives to the autonomous processes of change that transpire within the political related violence in a structural system of a society. The theory concentrates mostly on the causes and development of violence and fails to sufficiently integrate an understanding of how prevention and causes of violence interact, thus any one practitioner or theorist can tackle only a part of this enormous field (Kelman and Maker, 2007).

2.2 Empirical review of literature

Unemployment is caused to a large extent by rural-urban migration that increases pressure in urban centres and reduce infrastructural facilities in the rural areas. Rapid population growth leads to rapid growth of labour force which in turn outstrips job supply.. Rapid expansion of the education system increases the supply of educated manpower beyond the corresponding demand. Lack of steady and sustainable power supply makes the operational cost to be high making some employees to be laid off. Corruption, misappropriation, embezzlement and diversion of funds meant for development of projects has an impact on sustainable development (Uddin, 2013).

2.2.1 Overview of youth violence in the context of unemployment

Inter-group conflict result from social-economic and political exclusion and interest of the different groups who will stand to gain from the defeat of the other group. Their differences can be used to justify the conflict. This goes beyond just group difference but also envisaged in the social identity and inter-group interaction (Folger, et al, 2013). When the magnitudes of these differences are so deep there will be persistence and intensified violence and conflict. Folger concludes that, the root cause of this intergroup conflict lays in the basic human needs, majorly in the social identity and social categorisation which explains the need for belonging. It is in the process of social categorisation that group's people belong is determined thus creating social identity among people.

Similarly, Turner and Lehning (2012) argues that in the contemporary world where knowledge determines values in the job market, the youth in Africa seems to have attained higher educational levels, skills and knowledge yet too vulnerable and subjected to persistent hunger, poor sanitation and health facilities. Consequently, due to cyclic poverty another

generation going through difficult lives like low levels of school enrolment, high level of school dropout leading to high rate of unemployment and unemployable, leads to incidences of violence in the area. Therefore, failing to address the challenges facing the youth through creation of economic opportunities and youth engagement increases the number of those being induced by terror groups. These groups in turn cause disruption in the Africa economy as this people can access internet and share their plight with others globally.

In his study on the rise of international terrorism, Gus, (2013) argues that most of the global terrorist and militia groups begin as small gang bandits at the local levels and later on turn into extremists in their beliefs. The perpetrated groups are organised with a clear identity, nationality, ideological and religiously affiliated. According to Gus some groups like political terrorist have got their roots in inter-cultural group conflicts, some of the groups includes; Al-Qaida from Iraq, Islamic State (ISIS) from Syria, Hezbollah from Lebanon, Tamil Tigers from Sri Lanka, FARC from Colombia, Taliban's from Afghanistan and Iran, Boko-Haram from Nigeria and Al-shabbab from Somalia.

In the context of Papua New Guinea, violent conflict erupted because of social exclusion of certain group of people in policy making. This brought about class division among the citizens thus enhancing vulnerability and increased widespread inequality bringing about emergency of gangs and clan rivalries. A similar situation occurred in North Indian states in 1960s due to high rates of inequalities, social exclusion and exploitative economies that this area started having a series of rebellion that culminated into violence (Tony, et al, 2009). Furthermore, in the year 2000, there was violence in the States of Bihar and West Bengal, due to widespread inequality. Therefore, it can be argued that unemployment leads to vulnerability and marginalisation and as a factor can lead to outbreak of violence especially if it is connected to injustices done to a certain group of people in society.

A case of the Arab uprising that started in 2011 in Tunisia and Egypt had some similar demands where the young people were expressing their dissatisfaction due to the economic situation, lack of civil and political freedom including inclusion in policy making and widespread corruption in their governments. Economic grievances took center stage especially in Tunisia fueling the revolution. Participants involved mostly the unemployed, workers, students, the youngest age group being between the age 18-28 and the middle age being the age between 34-44 years. Over 55 percent of protesters were unemployed youth low income earners and middle class occupations (UN, 2015).

Oloo, (2009) in his study on marginalisation and the rise of militia groups, argues that most of militia groups have a common characteristics; one of them being their orientation from their ethnic groups. In the study, Oloo notes that most of the regions in Kenya are occupied by a certain ethnic group and that this was deepened by the rise of multi-party state in 1991 where political parties were formed and mobilized around their ethnic identity. Firstly, according to Oloo's argument, these gangs tend to operate based on local party mobilization, their cultural practices, language and faith. Secondly, the gangs comprises mostly of marginalized groups in society especial in the poor rural and urban settings in demand of human needs. To Oloo, the mushrooming of these groups is highly linked to the inability of the government in addressing its young people's welfare. However, according to Ibaba and Ikelegbe, (2009) militia gangs do not necessarily originate from the same ethnic group especial where urban environment is involved and where people are living in mixed origins. This shows that gang groups do not always represent ethnic groupings in a society but people undergoing the same discourses in their demand for form of justice together as a group. It should also be noted that not all violent behaviours by youth is as a result of Human needs some as noted above is due to different goals.

Similarly, rebel groups have become rampant in Central African region plying between the borders of Eastern part of Democratic Republic of Congo, Central Africa republic and Rwanda (Kasaija, 2008). Majority of these rebel groups comprise of young people fighting against injustices, inequality and misrepresentation in the government. In addition, Kubai (2009) in a study on historical and cultural dimension of militia and rebel groups in Africa, affirms Kasaija's argument. In this argument Kubai contends that most militia groups in Africa right from Somalia, Sierra Leon, Nigeria, Liberia and Egypt share a similar fate with inclusiveness of young people demanding for the same issues.

A comparative study done by Okumu and Ikelegbe, (2010) on security matters in Africa especially in countries such as , Liberia, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Nigeria concludes that, political violence is a major source of insecurity in most African States. According to the study this is evident from a multiplied number of armed non-state groups that range from armed and criminal bands, cultist groups, private security companies, vigilantes groups, community and ethnic/religious or regional armies, armed wings of political parties and private armies to military Islamists and rebel groups. Furthermore, they contend that most militia groups are used for a similar cause by people in authority in the name of defending their rights such as land, inclusion in Government and equality in resource sharing. According to him most of the groups start as vigilante groups with an aim of offering security to their community.

Wamũyũ, (2012) on the other hand, makes an observation that, most of these militia groups keep mushrooming every other day despite some being outlawed by the government. She further points out that these groups are mostly found in cities and urban centers. She affirms Oloo's arguments that most of these groups are supported and used by political leaders to

engage in violence. Equally, that there have been different militias groups arising from different ethnic communities in Kenya. She affrms Oloo's claims that some of these groups start as vigilante groups with a reason of protecting their communities. In addition she identifies these gang groups and the areas of the country Kenya where they mainly carry out their activities. Some of these are the Mungiki and Ngoroko who are mainly from Central ethnic community, Chinkororo, Sungusungu and Amachuma from the Gusi community, Talibans, Baghdad for peace, Nyalenda base, Nyamasaria-masive, Arturmargaryan and Kebago from Nyanza, Musumbiji from Western, Mombasa Republican council (MRC) from the Coast, Sabaoti land Defence Force Sabaoti community in Mount Elgon, others include; Jeshi la mzee, Kamjeshi, Karamojong boys, Sabasaba, Kosovo, Darajani bunkers, 12 Flamingo and many others. Consequently, all these are signs of destabilisation of a society and if not well checked can lead to a state of anarchy.

McLean and Fraser (2009) argues that when youth are excluded in power structures and political representations it makes them feel marginalised and a breach of the Constitution of a given country. As a result, their voice is not heard. This could result in violence as the youth seek avenues for addressing their grievances. In the study it is clear that negative ethnicities spread among the people who feel that the leaders who ascend to power are not from their ethnic groups. Hence they tend to incite their ethnic groups to use violence to address their grievances. Youth are less likely to be involved in violence if employment opportunities and other income generating activities can be provided. In addition, when their basic needs and other grievances are addressed, they are less likely to be engaged in social economic and political violence. It can therefore be concluded that there are many factors of social life that contribute to youth engaging in gang violence and crimes.

2.2.2 Manifestation of different forms of youth gang violence

Youth gang violence is characterised by carrying weapons, physical fights, bullying among youth that are in school or have dropped out of schools. Some form of violence results from drunkenness, biological, psychological and behavioural causes. As shown in other scholarly works for instance the works of Wamuyu 2012, on youth violence, one characteristic of these groups is that it is male dominated with few reported cases of female taking part such as in the case of the United States. In this context, the member groups are in the age group of teen and early twenties who have dropped out school with no skills and unemployed (UNDP, 2015).

More importantly, most of these groups arise from group identities, social deprivation, resource competition, elite manipulation, youth problems, economic decline, poor political leadership and governance frustration. The groups are small and mobile bands, usually made up of the youths who are vulnerable, voluntary and selectively recruited, poorly trained and moderately armed. Vigilante militia can be formed from armed anti-crime or security control effort which may later on be transformed into insurgent group (Krijin, 2010).

Studies have shown that if the needs of young people are being neglected by the authority they will start using other forms of communication. This includes violent behaviours such as attacking people, use of drug substance, involvement into prostitution, mugging people and destroying properties. Through these activities they believe they can be listened to by those in authority (Hall and Midgley, 2012).

2.2.3 Factors responsible for gang violence by the youth

According to Jeong, (2013) most scholars argue that violence among people results from internal social stress displayed in numerous factors like increased population which leads to

population pressure, population density, increased number of homicides and suicides, idleness, high misuse of drugs and alcoholism. Further, he opines that these internal social stresses are contributed highly by factors such as high level of unemployment among the youth. This may lead to homelessness, mass poverty, starvation and general social dissatisfaction both in the urban or rural regions where the increasing number of population exceed available resources such as land leading to unwanted restlessness in society as experienced Middle East and North African Countries (MENA).

When structural system fails to meet the social and material needs of its people this leads to decline of life condition, increased growth of unemployment levels, decreased material production while tax burdens still exists. In this kind of society, there can be different forms of reaction by the members of the society which could lead to the call for political action. In turn, this may involve violent acts among people especially among the idling youth (Folger, et al, 2013). On the other side, Besancon, (2014) argues that the violent political actions arise from a deepened feeling of frustration by one group that continues to lose despite the other group continued gain. To him, these calls for violence because of some incompatibility that tends to interfere with other people's desire, comfort, preferences and goals.

It can also be argued that violence not only arises due to economic issues and power control but also as a result of differences in identity, disparities in the power of making decision and opposing the interests, values and needs that may infringe on ones interaction with others. The fact that these can be deepened when one group compromise the rules that prescribe how resources in a society should be allocated to its members, thus making the people from the other group to exercise coercive power with believe that those in authority will be compelled to listen to their needs and include them in any form of development (Jeong, 2011).

Furthermore, Jeong opines that most of violent acts are due to un-met expectations of some groups in a social structure like economic inequality, disparity in accessing social facilities such as education, health care, proper housing and more so employment. This brings about a feeling of deprivation and frustration due to injustices and inequality among some groups of people who feel marginalised. Cases of this are for instance France in 2005 where riots were felt among Muslim youths, ethnic cleansing among the Albanians in Kosovo in 1990s and the long existing animosity between the Hutus and the Tutsi of Rwanda that climaxed in genocide in 1994.

According to the Government of Kenya and Peace-Net report, the post-election violence of 2007-2008 is understood to have been fueled by deeper issues than just election malpractice. Among the causes is inequality which can be viewed in terms of ethnic operations experienced due to unequal distribution of resources such as access to jobs by the young educated people, poor infrastructure in some areas than others and lack of access to land by the young people who otherwise would utilise it for development (Mercy Corps, 2011).

2.2.4 Coping mechanism adopted by the youth

Globalisation forces leading to socio-economic and political changes and enhanced sharing of information worldwide through the media, tourist and other migrants creates a big picture of the other parts of the world. This increases the desire of the marginalised youth to migrate for employment opportunities and other social welfare needs. This is in hope for a better future for themselves and their families. In fact, urbanization, migration and participation in religious activities are some forms of responses young people involve in that are non-violent (UNDP, 2014).

Some youth are involved in religious movement which helps in offering moral guidance, education, networking and contacts for employment opportunities and acts as security these are strategies that can improve survival for the youth. For instance, in a study in 2012 by Nantang, he highlights the case of Cameroon where the youth opted to migrate to the West as a "final port of call". This was in aim of seeking for economic opportunities, escaping boredom in rural life or escaping conflicts.

2.2.5 Levels of intervention by the Community in addressing gang violence.

Investing in youths by opening more chances for them is key to escaping unnecessary violence in society. This is because the youth have what it takes to turn around the face of the globe. Youths have un-used, untapped gifts and vision and they form the highest population of the World. Through their extra-ordinary potential they can be of help in improving the welfare of the whole society if their talents are tapped and be utilised well. Youth are transformative, innovative and imaginative with passion as agents of change (Nzau, 2015).

Hence, any society has a big role to play in empowering the youth either as individuals or through development institutions such as governments, private sectors, civil society, and academic fields. This will have a positive impace on the society because when the young people are given opportunities they can assist in sustainable development.

According to the Busia County Integrated Development Programme (2013), Busia County government has initiated a mechanism through which youth participate in policy making at the very local level. This has been achieved by opening up a suggestion box at the local level of the County. There is increased funding in learning institutions and opening up new ones to accommodate more people. The County government also supports other development bodies such as Non-governmental Organisations, Community Based Organisation and the Civil

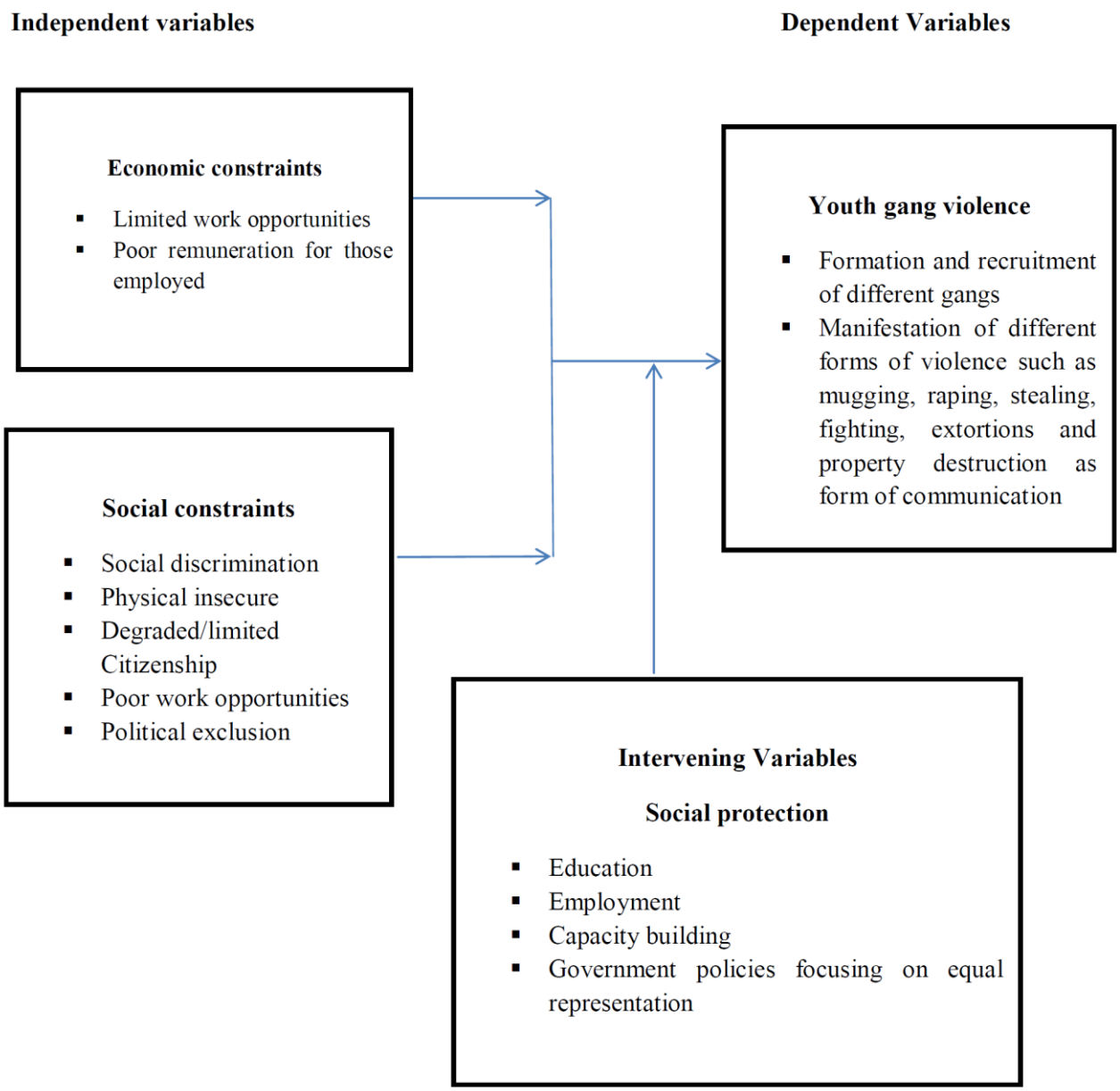
Society in their effort in addressing the socio-economic issues and creating more opportunities.

In addition, the societal leadership can also come up with strategies of reducing violence among the young people by encouraging them to participate in reconciliation programmes and peaceful dialogues, offering counseling services, participating in religious activities. They can also be given some part time jobs which will occupy them most of the time.

2.3 Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework (Figure 2.2) that guides this study is formed from a combination of several models of the Human Needs Theory of John Burton. In the study, gang violence is a dependent variable and includes acts such as fighting, robbery, use of drug substance, rape, destruction of properties and mugging. While independent variables for this study includes socio-economic constraints such as discrimination and marginalisation where youth feel they have been denied access to public and private goods and services. Their relationship to other social class is felt as exploitative and physical insecurity. Intervening variables include social protection and social assistance in the lives of the affected, government support in education and offering employment opportunities, including them in policy making and providing counseling and dialogue to the young people (Webel, 2014).

Fig. 2.2. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK



Source: researcher's compilation

In reference to the conceptual framework above, youths experience being left out in social development and policy making. They live in insecure environment and have very little assets that can help improve their lives. They tend to have no or limited voice in political

representation. The government exercise authority over them without their needs and rights being recognised. Equally, there is limited and poor work opportunities that can only allow for addressing the basic needs devoid of asset accumulation for furthering other social life facilities such as education (Nzau, 2015).

Furthermore, political exclusion and weak economic integration contribute to spatial levels of unemployment leading to idleness. The political marginalisation occurs to minority social groups who are deprived of resources. This can lead to violence since the marginalised groups seek for recognition.

2.4 Summary

The unemployed youth are experiencing frustration despite their acquisition of knowledge and skills and having spent much of their time in learning institutions. They feel dejected and not acknowledged for what they can contribute to the society. Their lives are exhibited in low purchasing power,. Youth can barely afford their basic needs. This makes them vulnerable and easy targets for rich politicians who give them handouts to fulfill their political interest (Wilhelm, 2014). The idleness of youth makes them vulnerable to any situation including engaging in violent behaviours. Hence, the youth develop an attitude that violence can resolve the problems they go through their lives (Nantang, 2010).

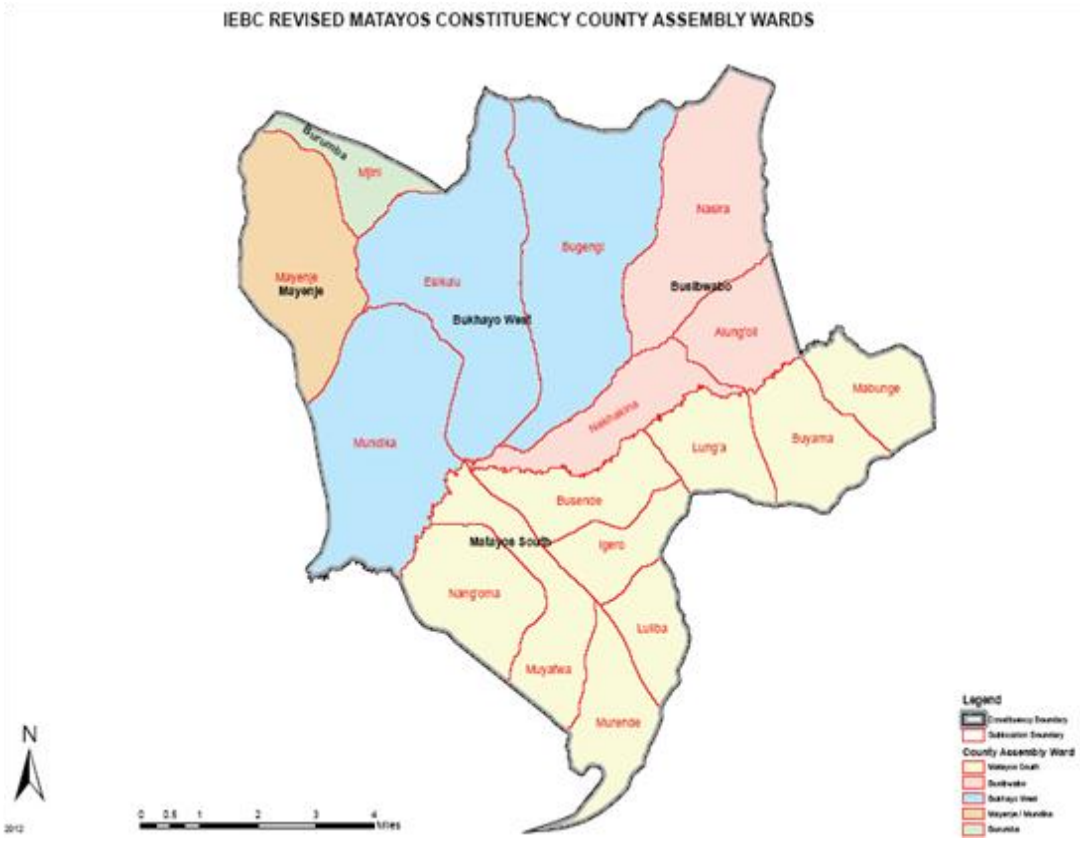
On the contrary, if the youth are supported to acquire higher and better education that leads to employment opportunities this can reduce the chances of their being engaged in violent behaviour since their needs are catered for (Lunberg and Wuermli, 2012). By involving theyouth in policy making and having equal representation in the various activities in their country, this increases the level of trust among them and to other structures of society. This in turn may lessen the youths' involvement in violent conflicts (Ikelegbe, 2011).

CHAPTER THREE

3.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

3.1 Research location

The study was carried out in Matayos sub-County, Busia County Kenya. Matayos was selected because it covers both urban and rural setting. Its administrative units are as follows; Two divisions, six locations and seventeen sub-locations. As a political organ it is one of the 290 constituencies as per 2010 constitution and is a constituency number 0228, with five County Assembly Wards. It has a population of 111,345 according the 2009 National census and a projection of 142,684 by 2017. It is traversed by Kisumu-Busia border-Uganda highway (refer to Map1 below).



Map 1: Matayos sub-County

Source: IEBC revised Matayos Constituency/sub-County Assembly Wards.

The economic activities in Matayos sub-County are subsistence farming, sand harvesting and small scale trading. It is in this area that many cases of violent behaviour and criminal activities have been rampant and a number of cases reported to the Security organ of the government.

3.2 Research Design

Descriptive research design was used since it is convenient when describing and collecting information on social issues such as habit, attitude and opinions of people. It is also necessary for the achievement of research goals (Orodho and Kombo, 2014).

The research aimed at collecting information about people's opinion, habits and social issues relating to criminal activities as witnessed in Matayos. Information was collected through interviews and semi-structured questionnaire as primary data. The secondary data was collected from the internet, books and journals.

The study adopted mixed approaches (quantitative and qualitative) since they support and enhance and also confirm the enrichment of data collected through different methods. A quantitative method guarantees triangulation and validation of the collected data, and qualitative is ideal for cross sectional surveys and also it is an interactive model (Maxwell, 2005).

3.3 Target population

Matayos sub-County has five Wards. The study was carried out in two (2) of the sampled Wards (Mayenje Ward and Burumba Ward). Respondents were youth, women and men drawn from each sampled group of people. According to the Busia County Integrated Development Programme (2013) the total target population in the two (2) Wards was 42,002

individuals (Burumba Ward has a population of 24,676, while Mayenje Ward has 17,326 individual members. The strata were formed on the basis of common characteristics. Each homogenous stratum was formed by stratified sampling and purposive sampling. Purposive sampling was used to reach the key informants while stratified targeted samples based on the income levels per household. This was done after a pilot study in a different Ward (Matayos South Ward) the neighbouring Ward but with similar characteristics.

However, it was interesting from the research findings that the most affected areas by the youth gang violence included Marachi and Burumba locations in Burumba Ward, Bwamani and Bulanda locations in Mayenje Ward where most of the young people claimed to have been marginalised by the County leadership. They argued that no employment opportunities were slotted for them and that they were excluded from any decision making process by the County authority.

3.4 Sample size and Sampling procedures

The population of the two Wards (Burumba and Mayenje) was regarded as homogeneous and therefore, the study adopted a mixed sample design where both probability and non-probability sampling designs were used that is stratified random sampling and purposive sampling technique. The researcher used stratified random sampling technique to ensure fair representation and purposive sampling technique to reach some key informants: 2 security personnel, community leaders who included 2 chiefs, 2 groups of village elders each of 6 individuals, opinion leaders like 1 ward representative and 1 County Executive Committee

In this dissertation, the target population was of 42,002 individuals. The is data according to the National census 2009 (KNBS, 2009). Strata were formed on the basis of common characteristics of those in each stratum. In allocating the sample size in each stratum, the

researcher used proportional allocation method where the size of the samples from each stratum is kept proportional to the sizes of the strata, that is, if **p** represents the proportion of population included in the stratum and **n** represents the total sample size the number of elements selected from stratum is **n.p** (Kothari, 2009).

The methods used in selecting items for samples from each stratum were both purposive sampling and stratified sampling techniques. To get sample of n =122 drawn from population size of 42,002 was divided into three (3) strata of sizes n1=17,037 youth, n2=13,429 women and n3=11,536 men.

(N1=17,037, N2=13,429, N3=11,536)

N1 =n.p1=122

Strata1. N1= n. p1=122(17,037/42,002) =49

Strata2. N2= n. p2 =122(13,429/42,002) = 39

Strata3. N3= n.p3 =122(11,536/42,002) = 33

Key: **P**= proportion of the population included in the stratum

N= is the total sample size (the number of elements selected from stratum is n.p).

Hence, when using proportional allocation the sample sizes for different strata becomes **49:39:33** which is proportion to the size strata of **17,037:13, 429:11,536** (Kothari, 2009 p. 63)

The study sampled 122 respondents from among the residents consisted of youth (male and female) and other key informants. Individuals were stratified basing on gender, age and the position held in society. Four (4) interview groups were formed through purposive sampling technique which comprised of 2 security personnel**,** 6 men and 4 women leaders and 7 youth leaders. (See Table 3.1 below)

Table 3.1 Sample procedure.

Category	Target population	Sample size	Sampling procedure
Youth and their leaders	17,037	49	stratified sampling
Women and their leaders	13,429	39	stratified sampling
Men and their leaders	11,536	33	stratified sampling
Security officers (OCS)	2	2	purposive sampling
Total	**42,002**	**122**	

Source: Researcher's compilation 2018

3.5 Data collection tools

3.5.1 Questionnaire

Questionnaires were administered to 80 respondents. They targeted all the residents of the study area. They were designed to collect data on age, gender, personal income, family size, type of economic activity engaged in and education attained. Semi-structured questionnaires were used to collect primary data. The rationale was that semi-structured interviews allow for both open and closed ended questions. Open ended question gave the respondents freedom to give ample information that captures the attitudes, feelings and perceptions of the respondents. Closed ended questions on the other hand were straight forward and limit use of long answers and opinions that may not be relevant to the study. However, the two forms of questionnaires complemented each other. Questionnaires were distributed by the researcher and the two assistant researchers. 80 questionnaires were distributed and of these 71 were returned. This translates into 89% which was regarded as good response for the study.

3.5.2 Interviews

Face-to face interviews were held with key informants selected through the purposive sampling technique. Those who were interviewed included two opinion leaders 1 Member of

County Assembly, 1 County Executive Council member, , 2 chiefs, 2 groups each of six village elders (*baraza*)**,** 2 Officer Commanding the Station. Structured interviews were held by use of an interview guides. The interviews were designed to identify the qualitative understanding of how the residents viewed behavioural change that led to violence among the young people. The participation rate was 94 percent.

3.5.3 Secondary Data

Secondary data was obtained from related academic literature by other scholars. They included text books, journals, newspapers, theses, internet and case studies by other researchers. They helped yield a wealth of information on the study and bridged the study existing gaps.

3.6 Piloting

Piloting was done in the neighbouring Ward (Matayos South Ward) different from the ones selected for study but with the same characteristics. This was to try out the efficiency of the instruments of the study. It was also to assist refine the questions and other study tools for instance by eliminating ambiguity and checking the language that one is likely to use (Mugenda and Mugenda, 2012). Through it the researcher was able to identify some ambiguous/double barrelled questions. .As a result, the instruments to be used were adjusted appropriately.

3.7 Validity

To enhance the accuracy of the instrument, a pre-testing (pilot study) was conducted on a population similar to the target population. The reasons behind pre-testing were to assess the clarity of the instrument items. This was to ensure that those items found to be inadequate in measuring the variables be either discarded or modified to improve the quality of the research

instrument thus increasing its accuracy. Validity of the research also relied on conducting a pre-test that ensured the suitability, clarity and accuracy of the research instruments in place (Mugenda, 2012).

Where some instruments were invalid, some adjustments, additions and corrections were done before the actual research started. Since most of the research collection methods were face to face, the content validity was judged through the correspondents' attitudes, behaviours and narratives.

3.8 Reliability

This enables the researcher to be sure that all the indicators are related to each other hence, multiple-item measure in which each answer to each questions are aggregated to form an overall score. Kombo (2014) argues that reliability measures the consistency of the results within a given study. In order to increase the reliability of the data collected, the researcher employed a test-retest technique in which the instrument was administered twice to the same subject. The pilot test of the instrument was done on one of the groups to ensure that the desired data or results are obtained.

3.9 Data Analysis and Interpretation

Data analysis process involves several activities such as, data coding, entry and modification. This study employed both qualitative and quantitative methods which require different processes. Qualitative data from the semi-structured interviews was categorised into different themes as they emerged during the field interviews. In addition, data was analysed by using averages such as mean, pie-charts, table percentages and thematic for the qualitative responses. For the quantitative data, cleaning of generated information through coding was

undertaken to identify errors, omissions and inconsistencies which was then followed by data entry process. The data was analysed with the help of a statistical software SPSS version 22.

3.10 Ethical Issues

Ethical issues adopted were based on the code of conduct. The respondent confidentiality, anonymity and honesty were assured through non-disclosure form and from those whose interests conflicted with those of the interviewee were not disclosed (Crabtree, 2010). The 'principle of informed consent' was applied for any participant who took part in the study. On observing confidentiality, self-administered questionnaires were availed and bore instructions instructing the respondents from giving any information in form of numbers or names that could reveal their identity. The researcher also ensured that the privacy of the participants was respected. Equally, the research adhered to the 'do no harm principle' (Fox et al, 2007) from the beginning of the research to the end.

In line with St Paul's University guidelines, the researcher got the required permission from the University and the government National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) and sub-County Commissioner.

CHAPTER FOUR

4.0 DATA FINDINGS, PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.1 Introduction

The chapter discusses the primary data results collected from the field as the general responses of the participants. The results were analysed and presented in tables, bar graphs and pie-charts. The information was captured by the tools employed in primary collection of the data. The researcher used the following data collection instruments: survey questionnaire and an interview guide. The response rates were as follows: From the issued 80 questionnaires 71 were completed and returned (Table 4.1 below). This translates into 89%. A 50% response rate is adequate for analysis therefore the 89% recorded in this study was excellent (Mugenda, 2011); Refer to Figure 4.1 below).

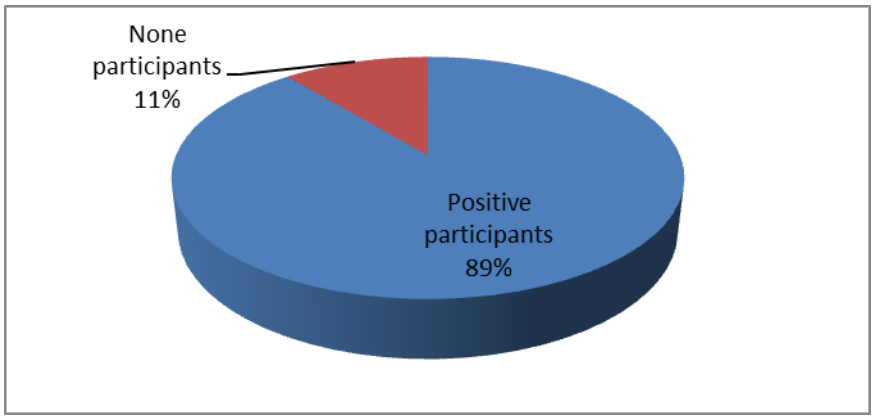
4.2 Data presentation

Table 4.1 Gender respondents

Gender	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Male	18	22.5%
Female	23	28.8%
Youth	30	37.5%
Total	71	88.8%
Total from expected number	**80**	

Source: Researcher's compilation

Fig. 4.1 Those who participated in questionnaires



Source: researcher's compilation

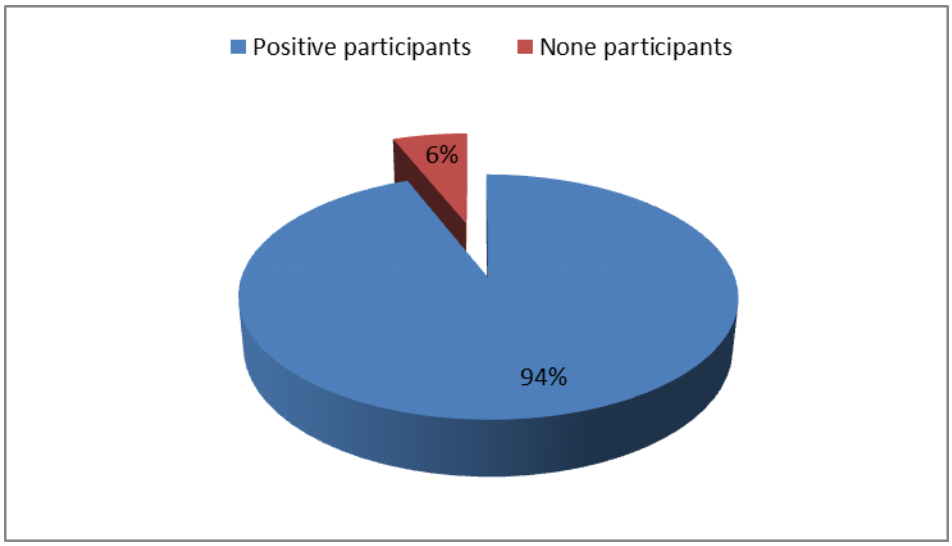
Face-to-face structured interviews were conducted on 25 participants (Table 4.2 below; Figure 4.2 below). The session of interview was designed to identify the narratives of the respondents on the behavioural change among the young people that leads to violent activities. The participation rate was 94 percent.

Table 4.2 Interview respondents

Occupation	**Frequency**
OCS	2
CEC	1
MCA	2
Chiefs	2
Council of elders (*Baraza*)	6x2
Youth leaders	4
Women leaders	2
Total No. of interviewees	**25**

Source: Researcher

Fig. 4.2 Interview participants in percentages



The narratives from the interviews conducted, it was evident that there was a pattern of behavioural change among the youth in the area. For instance from the 25 respondents interviewed, 94% had similar opinion in agreeing that most of the youth were engaging either directly or indirectly in violent activities such as robbery and gender based violence.

4.3 Demographic Characteristics of the Participants

The study obtained information from 122 respondents drawn from the intended strata of the sample selected. Strata were made from urban (Burumba and Marachi) and rural (Bulanda and Bwamani Wards) setups. The presented results were collected in four weeks in the months of March and April. With the help of two assistants researchers, questionnaires were administered to the respondents..From the issued 80 questionnaires 71 were returned (89%) and 11% failed to respond.

4.3.1 Gender

The researcher needed to establish the gender distribution of the respondents because the study intended to establish challenges faced by each gender and their response towards the

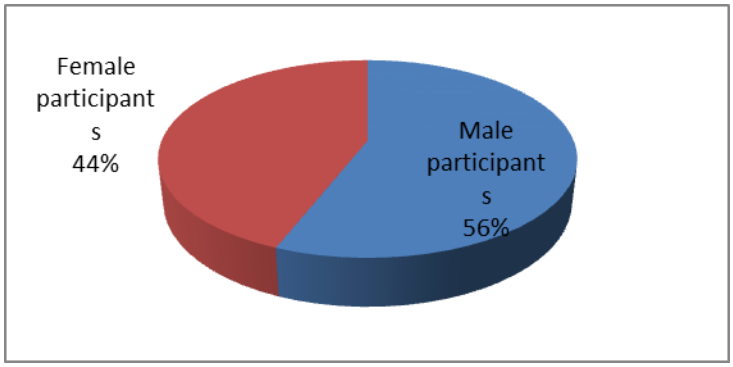
youth narratives on the youth involvement on gang violence. Their participation in the study was as indicated in Table 4.3; Figure 4.3 below.

Table 4.3 Respondents distribution by Gender

Gender	Age description	Urban	Rural	Total
Male (adults)	Above 26 years	16	9	25
Female (adults)	Above 26 years	19	13	32
Youth (male)	15-25 years	25	16	41
Youth (female)	15-25 years	13	9	22
Security officers	_____	2	_____	2
Total		**75**	**47**	**122**

Source: Research field

Fig. 4.3 Gender distribution of respondents (%)



Source: Researchers compilation from field

4.3 Unemployment affects social life and causes tensions and frustration

The respondents were asked to record their statement regarding the effects of unemployment on social life of individuals. 100 % of the respondents responded in the affirmative and also indicated that if unemployment persists then it could lead to frustration and tension in society.

4.3.2 Unemployment and job search

The study sought to find out the kind of employment most youth were in search of. The results are presented in Table 4.4 below.

Table 4.4 Distribution of job seekers (19-28yrs) by sex and method of job search

Job Search method	**Male (%)**	**Female**
Wrote to employer	3 (13%)	2 (7%)
Applied to government	2 (8.7%)	4 (14%)
Applied to private employment	5 (21.7%)	4 (14.3%)
Answered to advertisement	6 (26%)	4 (14.3%)
Asked relatives	3 (13%)	5 (17.8%)
Direct approach to employer	2 (8.7%)	5 (17.8%)
Sought resources for self-employment	2 (8.7%)	4 (14.3%)
Total	**23 (100%)**	**28 (100%)**

Source: Research field

Table 4.4 above, shows that the most common method used by job seekers for job search was to answer advertisements followed by applying for private employment. It was interesting that 17.8% female as opposed to 8.7% males approached the employer directly as it often the public expect women to be less direct in initiating dialogue. Also more percentage of females

than males (14.3% and 8.7% respectively) arranged for resources to enable them be self-employment.

Table 4.5: Distribution of unemployed aged 18-28 sex and type of job sought

Type of job sought	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)
Business operator	4	2	3
Paid employment	95	97	96
Farming	15	12	13

Source: researchers field work.

Table 4.5 above indicates that a majority of job seekers (94%) were looking for paid employment. Only 3 per cent sought to be business operators and 13 percent were interested in farming.

4.3.3 Unemployment affects health;

The respondents were asked about the effects of unemployment on health the response was as follows; 97% were of the view that unemployment leaves worse effects on health of individuals, it causes dishonor in society due to changing pattern of the social life. Their argument was that money is becoming an important factor in social set-up and the unemployed having limited sources of income are left poor.

This kind of poverty affects their status in the society hence their operation changes drastically. 1 % of the respondents disagreed with the fact that unemployment causes dishonor in society while 1.7 % remained neutral. About 117of the respondents supported the

statement that unemployment causes dishonor in the society, and leads to increase in crimes, suicide and drug addiction.

Table 4.6 Unemployment causes dishonor in society

	Frequency	**Percentage**
Agree	117	97.5%
Neutral	2	1.7%
Disagree	1	0.8%
Total	**120**	**100%**

Table 4.6 above shows the number of persons who agreed, disagreed and remained neutral with the fact that unemployment causes dishonor in society. Out of 120 respondents 95% (117) agreed 0.8% (1) disagreed while 1.7% (2) remained neutral.

4.4 Different manifestations of gang violence

The researcher wanted to explore different manifestations of gang violence. It was established during the study that the security of the area was highly compromised. Unemployment cause increase in crimes, suicide and drug addiction. In fact, all the respondents were in support of the fact that unemployment causes increase in crimes, drug addiction and suicide. The crimes that the youth are involved are manifested differently as indicated in Table 4.7 below.

Table 4.7 Response to forms of violent activities in percentage

Forms of violence	**Frequency**
Robbery with violence	18%
Gender based violence	15%
Carrying weapons	12%
Boda boda theft	13%
Idling	14%
Mugging	11%
Use of drugs	15%
Total	**100%**

Source: researcher's compilation

The researcher observed that at least in every political Ward in the sub-County, there was a police post or a patrol base station either for regular Police Officers or Administration Police Officers numbering between 8-15 persons. Their main purpose is to improve the security of the area. 64% of the participants claimed that in most of patrol cases, the Officers had been harassing residents especially the *'bodaboda' riders* (motorbikes used as a means of transport for both people and goods). They wondered why the police were harassing them when they were trying to make a living and then blame them when they engaged in violence.

A case was given of notorious robbers who are very well known to the community that were caught by the Police Officers and released with the claim that there was no evidence to justify being taken to court. Furthermore, they communicated that investigation was being carried

out to establish the truth. They shared that this madde them unhappy. As a result, 58% of participants vowed never to cooperate with the Security Officers. In fact in one of the interviews with elders in the '*baraza'* one of them claimed,

> "*Vijana wetu hawawezi kulaumiwa bila kufikiria jinsi wanavyo baghuliwa na serikali yetu. Wengi wamemaliza masomo yao wakafuzu na hawana la kufanya. Hili linachangia pakubwa wao kujiingiza katika mambo mabaya hata tunahofia wengine wao wanaweza kujiunga na Al-shabbab kule Somalia….." (Elder 2M1, 2018)*
>
> (Our young people cannot be entirely blamed without considering the discrimination they go through from our government, this contributes towards their involvement in criminal activities, we are even worried some could join Al shabbab in Somalia…).

The researcher observed from all the interview groups contributions that there were different gang groups. 93% of these groups are made up of young people between 15-25 ages that were known to be terrorizing residents. Among the gang groups were '*Wakali wao, Kamjesh marachi maafia and* the *Jobless'*. The composition of its members is the school going youth or school outgoing youth. The study also learnt that 89% of the group members are the male who have been members of the gang groups for two or more years. The presence of these three gang groups was confirmed in an interview with the Security Officers. They further pointed out that the easy access to arms that these groups use to terrorise the community is due to the porous borders where guns for hire crosses the borders without being noticed. This confirms the findings of Wamũyũ (2012) where she attributes the youth violence due to easy assess to illegal arms and drugs being trafficked through these porous borders between Kenya and its neighbours. These groups attack each other and cause mayhem in the area. A number of respondents gave witness to the insecurity in the area, where people's homes have been raided and their properties stolen. Among the participants 13% claimed to have been

terrorized by the gangs of young men who were armed with rifles. Another 5% claimed that they have been attacked in their houses and their valuable items stolen.

From the information collected either through interviews, and questionnaire it became apparent that the cases of gang violence were becoming rampant in those areas. One respondent at Marachi location narrated of a case where after the week following the reseearch study, two people had been attacked and one was still admitted in hospital. The researcher sought to confirm with this information with the hospital attendants. From the records from the hospital admissions and the Security Occurrence book (*OB)* it was confirmed that similar incidents happened to '*Boda-boda*' riders who had been attacked at different places and their motorbikes stolen. Yet, another similar attack had been confirmed within the same period and this was confirmed from the police records. In all these incidences the robbers were armed as one of the victims who were still admitted in hospital narrated to us. It was observed that the very victim was shot in the foot and was still nursing the injuries. Equally, through the interview with one of the Security personnel and reports from the records of the Security personnel Occurrence Book, it was evident that some of the robbers after terrorizing the residents went into hiding. In fact some crossed the border to Uganda and were still at large.

Additionally, police records reporting on rape cases have been common especial in slum areas. Equally, it was also observed that the increased use of drug substance like Marijuana, cocaine, heroin and other subsistence was very common in the area. This according the village heads was because of high levels of idling youth and easy access to the drug abusive substances.

4.4.1 Political Representation

In this section the researcher sought to find out the youths' political representation in the region. In order to collect data from the respondents were asked: What role do youth play in political affairs? From the interview responses, it was evident that only 73% of the youth who participated in politics benefitted and this was because they were close to the political leaders, 53% argued that politicians only wanted to use the young people and then dump. They further claimed that the political leaders failed to keep their promises of engaging the youth constructively once they got into power.

Additionally, over 80% of the youth respondents revealed that politicians had been dishing handouts to the voters especially during the campaign season. The study also learnt that young people were not well represented in political and administrative offices at the County level. For instance, from 100% of Member of County Assembly (MCA) representative only 12% is the youth representation and not adhering to the required 25% according to the Constitution of Kenya requirement as indicated in Table 4.8 below).

Table 4.8 Number of representation in senior positions

Number of Positions at County		**Age brackets**	
		Youth in Matayos	**Percentage**
MCA	**(49)**	20-28 yrs-(0)	0%
CEC (appointed)	**(24)**	20-28yrs-(0)	0%
Chief Officer	**(27)**	20-28yrs-(1)	4%
Directors	**(13)**	20-28yrs-(0)	0%
Total	**113**		

Source: Field compilation

Table 4.8 above portrays the distribution of representation at the County level, Chief Officers and directors of different departments at the county government. As shown, Matayos sub-County is hardly represented. This was attributed to the high handedness of politicians who appoint their kin and political supporters at the expense of other communities and clans that were of different political opinion. As a result, this causes division, bitterness and a vulnerable social class. Those therefore are left out of employment opportunities then decide to violence as a way of communication to air their grievances.

In an interview with one of the County government official, there was evidence that some departments in the County were made up of officers from one ethnic community therefore ended up using their own first language to communicate with each other instead of using English or Kiswahili. This is expressed in the narrative below.

> "*As peoples representatives in this County, we are really perturbed since some offices are full of people from one sub-tribe and they normally use their mother-tongue when executing their duties meaning most of the employees are from one part of the Country……"* (County Officer, M3, 2018)

This un-balanced employment opportunity and lack of fair representation of the youth in areas of decision making contributed to vulnerability of such groups of people and was regarded as one of the causes that explain youth gang violence in a sub-County such as Matayos.

4.5 Socio-Economic Conditions of the Residents in the Area of study

4.5.1 Agriculture

The researcher wanted to find out the socio-economic activities going on in the area. In order to establish this, the question was: What social-economic factors are connected with the

increase of youth gang violence? It was observed that majority of the residents in the area are subsistence farmers and that they relied on rain for farming. However, only a few whose land touched the riverbanks could do some irrigation. Some families had no land or had very small pieces of land. Others had sold it off or as some claimed had lost it to some greedy rich people that had grabbed. Table 4.9 below is a graphic representation of the responses on land distribution as captured.

Table 4.9 Socioeconomic Characteristics of the Adult Respondents on land ownership

Size of land owned (adults)	Frequency	Percentage
Below 1 acre	22	37%
1-2acres	15	25%
2-4acres	11	19%
Above 4acres	7	12%
Landless	4	7%
Total	**59**	**100%**

Source: researcher's compilation from the field

4.5.2 Education

The researcher wanted to find out the rate of literacy among the residents of Matayos. From the results, education attainment varied significantly among the youth respondents.. It was observed that 76% percent of youth respondents completed their primary education, 51% percent completed their Secondary education, and 35% percent had advanced their education up to Colleges and University while 11% percent never went to school.

The researcher observed that Primary schools were well distributed in the areas of the study however; according to some participants who are also teachers in some primary schools around noted that most of the schools were understaffed; in fact some had a few qualified teachers. In some public schools the ratio of teacher to student from the 3 school records was 1:74, 1:63, and 1:69. Yet some schools lacked proper teaching aids and other facilities with dilapidated infrastructure (Table 4.10 below).

Table 4.10 Education attainments by youth respondents

Education attainment (Youth)	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Completed Primary school	48	76%
Completed Secondary school	32	51%
Above Secondary school	22	35%
Never went to school	7	11%

Source: Researcher's compilation from the field

4.5.2.1 Rate of transition

According to Busia County Integrated Development Programme (2013) the rate of education transition was as low as 81% in primary school and 20% in secondary school. The researcher also observed that young people as young as low as 13 years in age end up foregoing school just because they have to fend for their family. Some of these either from the fact that they are orphans or are coerced by their ailing parents end up working either at the locality or migrating to urban Centre. This is in aim of getting jobs such as house girls or gardeners or other menial jobs in other rich people's homes in order to assist their families.

Other youth who had performed well at the Secondary level of education and could not raise funds to proceed to colleges end up idling around for lack of support. One young man argued that the rate of violence was becoming common not because the young people were lazy but because they lacked opportunities and resources.

> *"Sisi kama vijana tukipata nafasi ya kujikimu mambo ya insecurity haiwezi kuwa tisho hapa, wasee wengi wameenda kwa shule lakini hawana chochote cha kujivunia kutokana na masomo yao. Masomo ni kaa ku waste time coz haisadii mtu kivyovyote….."* *(YM5, 2018)*
>
> (As youths when empowered we can be independent and issues with insecurity will be a thing of the past; youth have gone to school but it is like education has nothing to offer and is waste of time).

An elder complained about the plight of the youth whose parents had sold everything to take them to school yet they cannot be offered opportunities by the government,

> "*Sisi kama wazazi tunashangaa sana na matokeo ya serikali yetu maana hata watoto wetu waliosoma hawawezi saidika baada ya wengine wetu kujitahidi kuwapeleka shuleni,mimi binafsi nimeuza karibu kila kitu kwa sababu ya karo ya shule……*"
>
> (Elder F4, 2018).
>
> (As parents we are amazed with how our government is operating, our children who have gone to school cannot get any help; some of us have worked too hard to an extent of selling all that we had for our children's school fees…)

These narratives are a clear indicator that young people are suffering from the problem of being excluded from opportunities that could enhance their ability to exit poverty. Some elders narrated of a case where they had to go and talk to some government officials for more than two times but it seemed their intervention landed on the deaf ears. This is because nothing has been achieved from their complaints. Respondents in all the study groups urged the government and other development agencies to help improve the sector by employing

qualified teachers and constructing better infrastructures so that the students education can be improved.

4.6 Factors associated with the increased gang violence

The researcher wanted to find out the respondents perception on the leadership of the County. Therefore, the question set for the same was: How do you perceive the leadership of the county? Majority had the opinion that once an elected person has been voted for he/she tries impress his close allies including his clansmen. They do this forgetting about all who voted for them. This has led to unequal distribution of government facilities including jobs. Furhermore, this tends to discriminate other groups of people in society.

During the study, it was established that much of the contribution of the violence was attributed to rampant poverty contributed by high levels of youth unemployment. It was established that about 41% of the employed people at the county level come from the same ethnic community. The information collected through the interviews and questionnaires were similar, in all the cases the respondents stated that nepotism was the leading cause of unemployment. Others included poor policies that never allowed them to own small scale business entrepreneurship.

It was also established that lack of proper representation of young people in the government and also exclusion of young people stimulated the violent behaviour among the youth. Equally, it was established that the youth lack knowledge on accessing Youth Enterprise Development Funds (YEDF), a micro-credit financial corporation whose mission is to increase economic opportunities for the youth of both gender who are between 18-35 years (Wasike, 2014).

4.6.1 Transport and communication network

The researcher wanted to establish the level of development in the area so he asked the question on how devolution has improved their life in terms of development. The response was that the roads were bad which made communication difficult especially during the wet seasons. Only 10% of the roads in the area are tarmacked, 20% are graveled yet over 70% are connecting the interior are undone. Equally they indicated that the dusty roads made them sick. There was lack of mobile telephone network made it difficult for the community to communicate with the "rest of the world". Also there is lack of electricity in many households despite the national government's policies of rural electrification. For instance, about 15% households are connected with electricity, 5% can afford solar-power the rest 80% are without lighting and rely on kerosene for their lighting which has got some health consequences. Respondents therefore complained about these and felt that their community was marginalised as compared to other parts of the County which are more developed in terms of the infrastructure.

The respondents also shared that Residents hardly got clean water in some areas especially in urban settings. They said that water could only be accessed once in a week forcing them to travel for over two kilometers in search for water from the streams which was not fit for human consumption. In addition, they indicated that those connected to piped water were only 8% and 20% are able to access public clean water for between 1-3 days a week and 70% cannot access clean water for domestic use. Hence, this leads to waterborne diseases They expressed their concern and frustration and their desire for the government to treat them equally as other Kenyans especially provision of essential infrastructure and other services which they also considered as their human rights. It would mean therefore that by the government addressing these needs there would be improved transport and communication networks leading to jobs and sustainable development.

4.7 Coping mechanism by the youth

The researcher wanted to establish how youth cope with some of the increasing gang activities in the area. The question regarding the objective was: What coping mechanism for youth is adopted as a form of alternative to violence? Different parents argued that due to increasing number of gang activities and increasing rate of unemployment, some of their children were forced to move to other cities including the capital city of Nairobi. Some even shared that some of these youth relocated to other parts of the world to seek for job opportunities. For instance 52% of households stated that their son/daughter have moved to other places seeking for a better life. Others ended up joining some Faith Based Organizations and civil societies both at local and global including the neighboring countries. They do this to avoid engaging in violence. In addition, others have offered to work as volunteers or at a small stipend in some non-governmental organisations just to keep them busy in the locality. This comprises 29% of young people in the area.

4.8 Community's intervention

It was necessary to understand the role of the community in intervention of the situation. Thus to find out their role in trying to intervene in the youth issues the researcher asked: What strategies is the community taking as an intervention to the increase of youth gang violence in this area? From the participants, 73% argued that there were working towards addressing the youth gang violence in the area through seeking assistance of the County's administrators. 95% were of the view that if the young people in the area are given opportunities such as bursaries and scholarship for higher education then the youth gang violence would be addressed. As noted in the following narrative.

"As parents we cannot run away from our children neither can we pretend that there is nothing happening. We still have to own them and accept what they go through and see the alternatives and how the situation can be changed. We shall not tire to give them guidance and help where necessary although the government has failed us…." *(Parent F1, 2018)*

Throughout the study it was evident that community members were urging the leadership in the area to establish forums through which matters affecting the society and especially the youth could be addressed. In their engagements in the forums such '*baraza's'* (Council of Elders), Church gatherings, at funerals and market places messages of unity, integration and collaboration throughout the sub-County can be enhanced. Their efforts in meeting and discussing inclusivisity with the elected Representatives, Administrators, Church leaders and Academicians could bear fruits.

4.9 Concluding remarks

The researcher in this chapter has analysed the collected data and shared the respondent's narratives on youth gang violence in Matayos. The presentation and description was done in Figures and Tables as per the objectives of the study. Equally, the respondents narratives captured in the interviews and Focus group discussions were presented.

A number of lessons were drawn by the researcher in the whole period of study in this area of Matayos sub-County on the issues of gang violence; its causes, effects and mitigation. In general all the respondents unanimously agreed that gang violence was evident in Matayos and was an area of concern among the community. Equally, they also stated that it had a negative impact on sustainable development in Matayos sub-County.

CHAPTER FIVE

5.0 Summary of Findings, Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1 Introduction

The general focus of the study was to examine unemployment as a factor contributing to gang violence by youth in Matayos sub-County Busia County. This chapter gives a summary of the findings of the study, the conclusion and the recommendation of the researcher that will enable more studies to be done in future in the region.

In the study it was revealed that gang violence has become rampant in the area and is being propelled by unemployment. This contributes to inequalities leading to vulnerability and a sense of marginalisation among different groups. For this study youths are most affected despite some having achieved highly in education, some are not employed despite their high academic qualifications. In the research, this was attributed to nepotism and highhandedness of the politicians. Furthermore, high levels of school dropout, unemployment, lack of political representation, non-inclusiveness in decision making, un-favorable policies for business enterprises, lack of knowledge on micro-credit facilities and vulnerability due to poverty has contributed to insecurity and youth gang violence in the location of study.

The study revealed that more than four different groups of gangs exist in the area including Wakali wao, Kamjesh Marachi maafia and the Jobless. The major cause of the rise of these gangs depends with the group. For this study, majority of the gang groups are youth, 95% of whom are male. This increase in the rise of gangs is attributed to high number of unemployed youth who are seen idling around with some having achieved high academic levels.

Most of the household heads blamed the County government and their officials for being corrupt and engaging in nepotism regarding offering employment. It was learnt that most of the local employees come from some specific sub-tribe/clans hence. Additionally, the respondents' narratives indicate that other clans were not well represented in the government despite their youth's high academic achievement. This has resulted in some of the sub-tribe experiencing exclusion.

The findings also showed that some areas lagged behind in terms of development since they did not enjoy some infrastructural facilities such as proper transport network, no access to clean and safe water (some still use unsafe water drawn and used directly from the river) and some walk long journeys to access health facilities unlike in other parts of the County which are slightly better in terms of accessing these facilities.

From the discussion by the respondents it there was an indication of low levels of social cohesion in the families and communities. , There was evidence of lack of parental guidance and this was attributed to some parents/ guardians being very busy in their daily activities and thus not spending time mentoring their children. This gap increases in the rate of young people's involvement in youth gang group violence.

Literature review was thematically done with a focus on the various aspects of the objectives and aims of the study. The study used a descriptive research design focusing on two study wards in Matayos sub-County which were sampled using stratified random sampling and purposive sampling. The areas of study were Mayenje Ward and Burumba Ward where 122 respondents including opinion leaders, community leaders like Chiefs and Village elders and Security personnel were involved.

The instruments used in research included both closed and open-ended questionnaires and structured interviews. Data analysis was done through qualitative and quantitative approaches. The methods facilitated generated data along the main objectives which were to:

i. To explore different manifestations of youth gang violent behaviour experienced in Matayos.
ii. To investigate whether unemployment contributes to increased youth gang violence in Matayos.
iii. To explore the coping mechanism adopted by youth in dealing with factors likely to lead to gang violence in Matayos.
iv. To explore the levels of intervention by the community on youth gang violence in Matayos.

The research established that gang violence was becoming a menace in Matayos sub-County and the key contributing factor was high unemployment among the youth. This further led to socio-economic inequalities among the residents especially among youth groups that were experiencing marginalisation. Most of the respondents indicated that they had been affected directly by the gang groups. Some had been attacked, their property stolen, some robbed or even mugged.

5.2 Summary of Findings

5.2.1 Manifestation of youth gang violence experienced in Matayos sub-County

It emerged that there is formation of different forms of violence which have been reported among the youth gang groups and this includes: mugging, raping, stealing, fighting among their different groups, and destruction of property with beliefs that all these justify the cause.

Furthermore, a number of young people had been terrorising people by stealing from homesteads as police the records shows.

5.2.2 Factors associated with youth gang violence in Matayos sub-County

The study established that the contributing factor of youth gang violence was to a large extent the unequal socio-economic status of the residents mainly due to high levels of unemployment. This has led to low household incomes by majority residents, political exclusion, social discrimination and poor job opportunities. Majority of the residents could not afford clean water, have decent meals and housing. A huge percentage of the youth that are engaged in youth gang violence had dropped out of school either at primary level or could not continue with secondary or tertiary levels.

5.2.3 Coping mechanism adopted by youth as alternative measure to violence in Matayos sub-County

From the study it was revealed that many young people had made efforts to migrate from their residence to other cities and places to seek for green pastures. The reason was that they wanted to fend for their families. Others had joined local religious organisations to keep themselves busy and avoid involving themselves in the incidences of violence. Others had volunteered to work for local non-governmental organisations at a stipend to improve their skills and add experience in hope for a better future.

5.2.4 Levels of intervention by the community on youth gang violence in Matayos.

The community has made efforts to reduce the youth gang violence in the area. Some of the activities they are involved in is collaboration with some non-governmental organisations, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), and other development partners who can give support in education, counseling and even offering some job opportunities. They have also

started Clubs to tap talents such as Soccer teams, Agricultural Clubs that rear animals such as goats and sheep, Small Scale Entrepreneurs such as Table-banking and Bee keeping among others.

5.3 Conclusion

Youth unemployment is a menace and constitutes real danger and threat to democracy and development in any society. The idle youth can easily be manipulated to undermine the stability of a society. There is therefore need for the government at all levels to create jobs and deal with the problem of youth gang violence experienced by the unemployed youth. It is also evident from the study that the narratives of youth especially in Matayos are not listened to. Therefore, if this violence is unaddressed it could escalate and affect the vision 2030 towards sustainable development.

This study would envisage that Kenya's devolved government, Civil societies and other interested development partners would provide the required resource at their disposal to assist the young people acquire job and also have forums to express themselves and their aspirations. Additionally, the community should also come up with alternative ways aimed at improving the socio-conomic development to reduce high economic inequalities hence, reducing violence in the society. t is equally important that there are avenues for youth to develop their potential , in order to promote their self-esteem and for sustainable development in their sub-County and Kenya in general.

There is also need to address the porous borders that surrounds Kenya. For instance, 87% of respondents argued that there is frequency of smuggling in of drugs and small arms. Regarding the small arms, these are engaged during activities such as robbery with violence and other criminal activities. Sometimes the youth commit crimes in Kenya and then

disappear to the neighbouring countries especially to Uganda and Tanzania. In summary, therefore, one of the key cause of youth gang violence high unemployment leading to socio-economic inequality, urbanization and high youth migration both locally and globally.

5.4 Recommendations

In the recommendation the researcher aims at reaching the following groups; individual, parent/guardian relationship to their children, community and society at large. This is because at every level they have a role to play in handling the matter pertaining to different groups in society.

5.4.1 Individual level

The government and other development agencies should intervene at the stage of education through the use of incentives to encourage youth who are at high risk of being involved in youth gang violence. The youth should be encouraged to complete their education up to and even beyond secondary schooling and vocational training to emphasise skills and competency for social development. Serido, et al (2009) argues that those who have acquired knowledge in different sectors of learning such as information technology development and globalisation should be considered, for successful development.

5.4.2 Relationship level

There is a need for strong relationships through collaborative forms of youth-adult partnership for mentorship relationship. It is therefore important to organise peer counselling programmes. Varga and Gee, (2010) argue that to improve the need for belonging and identity, the society through their intervention should focus on cultural identity by offering opportunities through exploring their ethno-cultural heritage in supporting social context that is free from discrimination.

The community including teachers in schools should initiate programmes that will deal with trauma, idleness and reduce availability and usage of alcohol and other substance. Gambone, (2009) argues that extracurricular activities like play programmes including Football and sports should be emphasised, talents and gifts be identified for social development and peer relations. These preoccupy the young minds and time and reduce their effort to engage in violent activities.

The government has also to play its role by creating enabling socio-economic and political environment such as provision of infrastructure. This is in order to make the industrial climate investor friendly. This will attract investors to create more jobs for youth and equip them with skills for entrepreneurial and agricultural production.

The society through its leadership and other stakeholders should increase public campaigns for dissemination of information to everybody, proper analysis be done for education reformation to cater for the needs of the young people. Policy makers should come up with policies that will help tackle the incidences of gun violence among the youth; design good programmes that are geared towards youth empowerment. This programmes should also balance the needs of the community and the individual. Lastly, the society should create programmes that will address youth marginalisation and be able to come up with policies aimed at alleviating poverty and inequality of any kind to reduce youth idleness, drug and substance abuse thus reducing involvement in violent behaviour especially among young people.

There should be a way of the development partners providing funds and encouraging residents' access to micro-finance schemes, this is because micro-credit finance can easily be

conducted in rural areas to enhance development. Studies have shown that access to micro-finance loans with little interest rates impacts positively on the lives of individuals and reduces the level of poverty, the rate of rural-urban migration and enhances development in rural/urban settings. This would ensure that the youth population is able to access the micro-finance schemes for their own development and that of their society.

Policy makers such as the elected area Members of Parliament and Members of County Assembly should review laws so that they support policies that ensure a stable economy and that would reduce biase to small scale entrepreneurs and create an atmosphere that will encourage outreach to the rural/urban poor and especially the youth population.

More importantly, there should be and establishment of a conflict resolution committee for harmony in the area. Through its intervention the society ought to deal with the triggers to violent conflicts instead of applying quick fix solutions. Equally, the government should reduce the unnecessary bureaucracy to enable the youth population easy accessibility to programmes that will ensure socio-economic and political empowerment.

5.4.3 Contribution of this research finding

The research has identified challenges relating to socio-economic inequalities through adoption and utilization of the John Burton's theory as evidenced in the findings. It explains the impacts of marginalising a section of a community in terms of economic inequality. It has emphasised the fact that dissatisfaction and frustration of any marginalised groups may lead to violence such as experienced in the youth population in this study.

5.5 Suggestion for Further Research

From the researcher's observation, further research has to be done on the effective strategies of youth and violence prevention and their integration in society for sustainable development. It would also be valuable for future studies to consider issues such as class, gender and age incorporation towards issues of development in the region. Equally, a research carried out on gang violence incorporating the youth narratives from the close neighbours (Uganda and Tanzania) may shed more light on the contribution of the porous borders on youth gang violence.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: INTRODUCTION LETTER TO RESPONDENTS

Balongo Caleb Vincent

P.O Box 994-50400

Busia- Kenya

Dear Respondents,

RE: DATA COLLECTION BY BALONGO CALEB VINCENT–MDS/LMR/ /9808/14

My name is Balongo Caleb Vincent. I am a student at St. Paul University pursuing a Masters degree in Development studies. I am here to undertake a research project on "**Investigating Factors influencing gang violence by unemployed youth: A case of Matayos sub-County Busia County Kenya".** Through this letter I humbly request that you respond to the questions in the questionnaire attached. The study is purely for academic purpose thus will not be used for any other work. Whatever you share will be dealt with confidentiality. Please should you accept to assist me in this research you will be free to withdraw at any time. Thank you very much in advance for your cooperation and willingness to contribute to this research.

Yours sincerely,

Balongo Caleb Vincent

MDS/LMR /9808/14

APPENDIX II: SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

Instructions:

Please read each question carefully and kindly answer all the questions by ticking or filling in the spaces provided. All responses given will be treated with utmost confidentiality.

Part I: Bio-Data

1) Kindly indicate your gender

Male [ ] Female [ ]

2) Kindly indicate your age

15 - 20 Yrs [ ] 20-25 Yrs [ ] 25- 30 Yrs [ ]

30-35 Yrs [ ] 35- 40 Yrs [ ] 40- 45Yrs [ ]

Above 45Yrs [ ]

3) How long have you been a resident of Matayos sub-County?

1- 4Yrs [ ] 4-8Yrs [ ]

8-12Yrs [ ] 12- 16Yrs [ ]

Above 16Yrs [ ]

4) What form of income activities are people engaged in this area

Small scale business [ ] subsistence farming [ ] employment [ ]

Part II: Study variables

THIS SECTION OF QUESTIONNAIRE TO BE RESPONDED TO BY ALL INFORMANTS

B) The kind of violent behavior youth in Matayos engage in

5) How often does this kind of violent behaviour by the youth occur?

Once a week [ ] Once a month [ ]

Others, Please specify…….

6). Please tick those items that apply in the box the kind of violent behaviour youth in Matayos engage in.

Item description	**Please tick**
Attacking and harming residents	
Gang fighting with each other	
Mugging in public places	
Robbery with violence in homes	
Illegal drug and substance abuse	

If any other, please specify ……..

7) In your opinion is this kind of violent behaviour justified?

Yes [ ] No [ ]

Please give reason for your answer…….

C) The link between low household income and youth engagement in violence in Matayos

8) Are the unemployed youth only one's involved in the conflict in Matayos?

Yes……. No …….

Others, please specify……

9) What kind of activities do young men in Matayos engage in on a daily basis?

10) In average, how much does a household earn in a day in Matayos?

A. $ 1 a day (ksh100/=) [ ] **B**. Less than $ a day [ ] **C**. More than $ a day [ ] **D**.

Others please specify ……..

11) Please tick those that apply from the list below.

Major causes of violence	Tick in the box
Low household income	
Unemployment	
Social discrimination	
Political exclusion	
Poor work opportunities	
Physical insecurity	

If others please specify……

12) Are there any form of intervention taken to end the violent behaviour in Matayos? Yes…… No……..

If yes please specify …….

13) Are the youth in Matayos organised in different groups or violence just start instantaneously? Please share……

D) The extent to which basic needs influence young people to use violence

14) Are unemployed youth frustrated with life?

Yes [ ] No [ ]

15) Are the unemployed youth frustrated by their leaders?

16) Most of the unemployed youth blame leaders for nepotism?

Yes ……. No…….

17) Most of the unemployed youth blame leaders for discrimination in society?

Yes ……. No…….

18) In your opinion who are mostly involved in the acts of violence in terms of gender?

A. Mostly boys **B.** Mostly girls **C.** Both boys and girls

19) Is there any organization that is working towards addressing youth violence in Matayos?

Yes [ ] No [ ]

19) If your response is 'yes' in the question above, please tick from the box which kind of the organization it is.

Organization/institution	**Tick in the box**
Government/ security personnel	
NGO's/ CBO's	
Religious groups	
Village elders	
Efforts from the villagers themselves	

Please share on the activities of the organisation you have selected from the list above…….

19) Apart from basic needs suchs as food, clothes and shelters, what are some other necessities that lead young people to violence? Please share …….

20) In your opinion do you think the acts of violence in Matayos are linked to politics in the area? Yes [ ] No [ ] Please share on your response…….

21) Please tick one response from the list below on how many meals you usually take per day?

A. One meal a day [ ]

B. Two meals a day [ ]

C. Three meals a day [ ]

D. Others, please specify……

22) At what intervals are the meals served?

A. Supper in the evening only ***B***. Lunch during the day only

C. Breakfast in the morning only ***D***. Can afford all the three meals

E. Others, please specify……

23) Please tick in the box those that apply regarding ways of reducing youth gang violence in Matayos.

Intervention	**Tick in the box**
Education	
Employment	
Economic empowerment	
Equal representation	
Dialogue and counseling	
Inclusivity in policy making	

If others please specify……

APPENDIX II

INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR THE KEY INFORMANTS

i. Government officials (OCS)

a) Do you know of any violent conflict in Matayos sub-County?

b) When did this violence start?

c) In your opinion, what could be the cause of the violence?

d) Who are the majority in terms of age group involved in this violence?

e) In own opinion, is the violence in Matayos increasing or decreasing?

f) As security personnel what is your view on this type of violence in the society?

ii. Women and their leaders

a) How has the violence affected your daily operations in Matayos?

b) What should be done to prevent these incidences of violent behaviours?

c) What measures are you taking to address youth violence in your community?

iii. Youth and their leaders

a) Why do you think youth in Matayos are engaging in violent behaviour?

b) What could be their demands that lead them to use violence?

c) What would you recommend to the relevant bodies be done or introduced as way of reducing violence in Matayos?

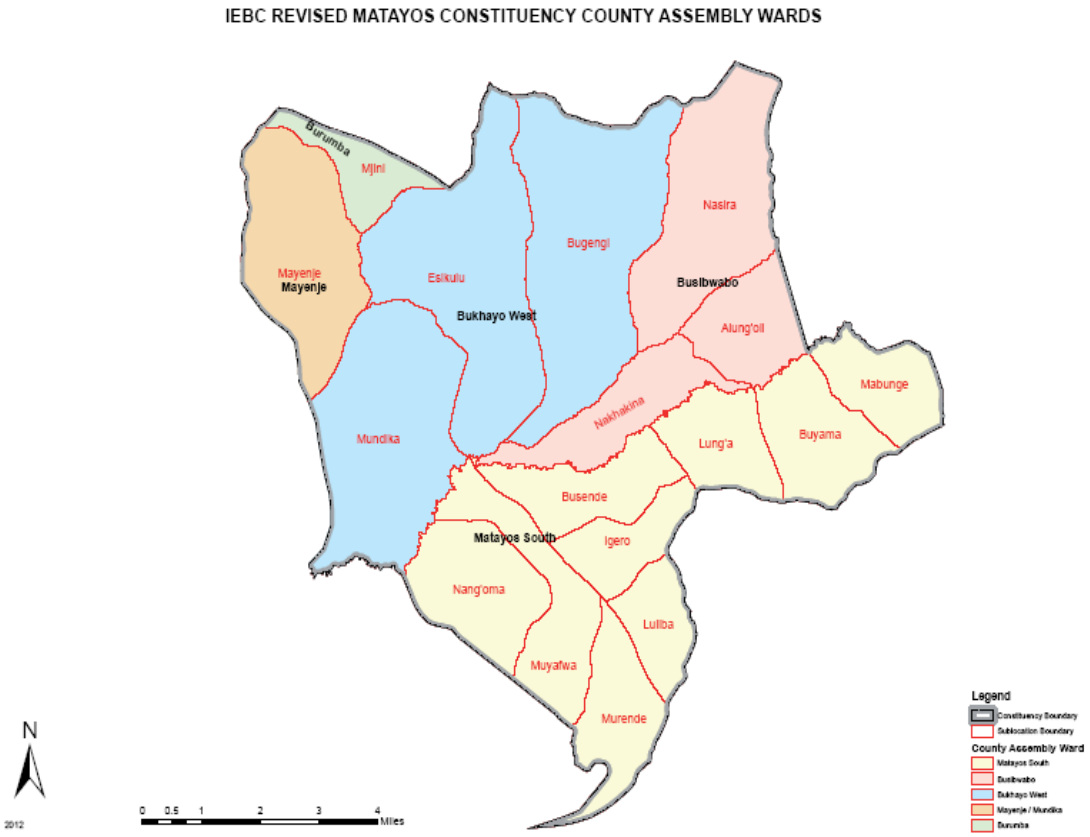
iv. Men and their leaders

a) What challenges do people experience as a result of these cases of violence in Matayos?

b) What measures are you putting in place to address the challenges identified if any?

c) What is to be done to address these challenges?

APPENDIX V: MAP FOR MATAYOS SUB-COUNTY



Source: IEBC revised Matayos Constituency/sub-County Assembly Wards